

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for mounting a component onto a substrate, comprising:

causing a holder to receive a component from a component supply and hold said component;

using an individual criterion associated with said component, while said component is held by said holder, to make a determination as to whether said holder or said component would make an interference with another component mounted on a substrate were said component held by said holder attempted to be mounted onto said substrate; and

using said determination to either mount or not mount said component held by said holder onto said substrate,

wherein said individual criterion is a reference area determined in light of a position of said component or said another component.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein

using an individual criterion associated with said component to make a determination as to whether said holder or said component would make an interference with another component mounted on a substrate were said component held by said holder attempted to be mounted onto said substrate comprises

(i) determining a region of said substrate onto which said component held by said holder is to be mounted,

(ii) calculating a distance from said region to an adjacent region of said substrate,

(iii) determining a displacement of said component, held by said holder, relative to said holder, and

(iv) making a judgement as to whether said displacement is less than said distance, and

using said determination to either mount or not mount said component held by said holder onto said substrate comprises mounting said component onto said substrate when the judgement is affirmative.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, further comprising: when the judgement is negative, discarding said component held by said holder; and then causing said holder to hold another component, which another component has the same size as the discarded component.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein using said determination to either mount or not mount said component held by said holder onto said substrate comprises mounting said component onto said substrate when the judgement is affirmative, and further comprising:

before mounting said component held by said holder onto said substrate, making a judgement as to whether a component, that is to neighbor on said substrate said component held by said holder when mounted on said substrate, has already been mounted on said substrate; and

when the judgement is negative, mounting said component held by said holder onto said substrate irrespective of any displacement of said component, held by said holder, relative to said holder.

5. (Currently amended) A method for mounting a component onto a substrate, comprising:

causing a holder to receive a component from a component supply and hold said component;

using an individual criterion associated with a position of said component, while said component is held by said holder, to make a determination as to whether said holder or said component would make an interference with another component mounted on a substrate were said component held by said holder attempted to be mounted onto said substrate; and

using said determination to either mount or not mount said component held by said holder onto said substrate,

wherein said individual criterion is a reference area determined in light of said position of said component or a position of said another component.